

and the 910th is the second flying wing that has had the opportunity to have him as their commanding officer. As our wing commander at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station, General Gjede's personal involvement, his encouragement, and intuitiveness have produced an overwhelming response, as recognized in the achievements of the wing's members.

The 910th's functional areas performed flawlessly, despite a stressful and turbulent atmosphere caused by the events of September 11, 2001. His superior leadership was the driving force that kept all personnel properly focused, allowing them to consistently meet and exceed requirements. Despite the challenges of the most aggressive reserve operations tempo in history, the 910th immediately responded to the homeland defense initiatives in support of Operation Noble Eagle and the worldwide requirements for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

General Gjede's continual involvement in base renovation and new construction projects, operation and maintenance facilities, and quality of life projects will produce benefits far into the future. The accomplishments of General Gjede culminate a long and distinguished career in the service of his country and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

On a personal note, one of the unique experiences I have had with General Gjede was an opportunity to participate in the Youngstown Air Reserve parachute program. It is not really a program. It is a simulation of parachuting. General Gjede gave me an opportunity to put on the suit, strap myself in, and look down and do the virtual reality and try to land on a carrier. Well, needless to say, I had my suit pants on, so General Gjede got to see me with suit pants, a tie, and the equipment necessary for parachuting dangling from the ceiling at the air base and missing the boat completely and going directly into the water. I do not even believe I got the parachute out in time. So General Gjede has seen his Congressman in some very compromising positions. Luckily, there was no one in there with a camera to take any pictures.

So that was a good experience I have had, among many, with General Gjede; and he is going to be sorely missed.

But I would also like to say that behind every great man is a great woman. He has a phenomenal wife, Jerylynn, who we have had the opportunity, my wife Julie and I have had the opportunity to get to know. She is a tremendous, tremendous woman. She is a great First Lady for the 910th. She has an enormous amount of class and composure and brought a lot of elegance to the air base, and we will sorely miss her as well.

So on behalf of the people of the 17th Congressional District, I want to thank you, General Gjede and your wife, and wish you and your family the best.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed our time together, our dinners together, and hope that in the future there will be many, many, many more. We are definitely wishing and hoping that you will stick around in our community after your retirement, because our community certainly is a better place and a stronger place with you and Jerylynn in it, and we will not just miss the General and his wife but we will miss our friends.

So I wish you the best of luck and hope that we get to see you in our community and look forward to many, many, many further experiences together on behalf of the air base.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCDERMOTT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE CHALABI DEBACLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I stand here today beside this picture. On the right is President George W. Bush and on the left of the picture is a man by the name of Chalabi, Mr. Chalabi. We have heard a lot about Chalabi in recent days. The President, apparently, indicated recently that he did not know him well, that he may have met him at a rope line. But the fact is that Mr. Chalabi was in this Chamber as the honored guest of the President of the United States, seated right up there near the President's wife, Laura Bush. He was applauded by those gathered in this Chamber.

We now know that Mr. Chalabi, who we have reason to believe was paid some \$40 million by this government, until just recently, those payments were finally, belatedly, cut off, but Mr. Chalabi was supposed to be providing intelligence to this administration. He is especially, apparently, close to Vice President CHENEY and to others within this administration.

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Based in part on intelligence data that came from Mr. Chalabi, this administration made a decision to go to war. Think about that. What have we learned in recent days about Mr. Chalabi. Well, according to news reports, not only was the information that he gave us distorted, false, and in some cases apparently made up; but we now have news reports, credible news reports that Mr. Chalabi was cooperating with one of the axis of evil nations, that nation being Iran.

According to news reports, this government had broken the code that en-

abled us to intercept communications from the nation of Iran and that Mr. Chalabi told Iran that our government had in fact broken their code. News reports say that Mr. Chalabi further informed the Iranian Government that he received that information from someone within the United States Government who was drunk at the time.

If these reports are accurate, it means that our troops and our national security have been placed at greater risk because this administration put its confidence in this man. Not only did we give him our national resources in terms of about \$40 million, not only was he invited to the State of the Union, allowed to sit near the First Lady and receive the adulation of this body, not only was he given these millions of dollars in this recognition, but we depended upon the information coming from this man; and now it appears that our national security may have been compromised.

Mr. Speaker, there needs to be a thorough investigation of what has happened here. We need to find out if our young men and women have been put in harm's way because of the actions of this man; and the President needs to explain to us why he now indicates he knows little about Mr. Chalabi, when he is here in this picture, he was invited to this Chamber for the State of the Union address, and this government invested more than \$40 million into this man.

This is something that cries out for explanation and investigation, and it is my hope that the President will accept the responsibility of making sure that the news reports of the last few hours are thoroughly investigated, that all those responsible for the possible leaks regarding national security issues are identified and are thoroughly, utterly, totally discredited.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WYNN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on March 16, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson declared a war on poverty. Yet today, 40 years later, millions of Americans continue to face poverty and hunger. It's unconscionable that in the 21st century, in the richest and most prosperous country in the world, nearly 35 million Americans—13 million of them children—go hungry every day.

Today is National Hunger Awareness Day. This initiative, sponsored by America's Second Harvest, is designed to help raise public